

Facilitation of **Bay of Plenty Councils'** approach to shared services



What we were asked to do	<p>We provided facilitation support to the Board of the Bay of Plenty, BOPLASS Ltd (the company owned by the eight councils in the Bay of Plenty region to foster shared services), to assist it to move forward with joined-up councils' initiatives.</p>
How we approached the project	<p>We facilitated two workshops of Chief Executives from the seven associated Territorial and Local Authorities and the Regional Council. We provided input on collective action and assisted with shaping the exploration of the possibilities for collective action.</p> <p>BOPLASS had achieved some significant gains in the collection of geo-spatial data but had not achieved any further gains. Through the process of review, the CEOs achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reconfirmation to BOPLASS and greater resourcing of the IT activity• Agreement to greatly enhanced collective action in key areas of council activity, starting with roading activities, but including water and waste disposal• Agreement to review administrative streamlining in areas such as rates collection, and• Agreement to reduce regulatory variety.
Our findings	<p>We identified that there was considerable potential for greater merged and collective activity that might provide significant efficiency and effectiveness gains. We identified that the process for managing the broader change agenda needed to be supported by, but not all driven from, BOPLASS. The project resulted in a series of CEO decisions.</p>